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Beijing p/10

Bay pitches in for one more Olympic Games

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3 in 5 support Morgentaler's medal: Survey

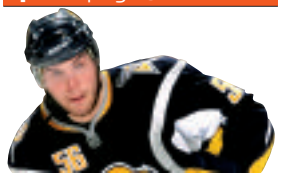
ORDER Even though much controversy was generated by the appointment of pro-choice crusader Dr. Henry Morgentaler to the Order of Canada, a survey of Canadians found three out of five support the decision.

The Angus Reid Strategies online poll done yesterday and Monday — a week after the Canada Day announcement — showed that, of the 1,016 Canadian adults surveyed, 60 per cent supported Morgentaler getting the honour while 29 per cent opposed it. Another 12 per cent weren't sure. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Canada page 7

Harper caps G8 emissions goals

Sports page 9



Canucks match Blues offer for Steve Bernier

Celebrity buzz page 22

Drew splits with beau Justin Long

Workology page 11

Nursing crisis set to worsen as boomers retire

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Jamie Maxwell and his fiancée, Jessica Mitchell, outside their Mt. Pleasant apartment yesterday. The couple is devastated that the cameras containing the only photos of their engagement in Cambodia were stolen from Maxwell's car.

Couple's memories stolen

Latest victims of rampant thefts from cars make plea for photos

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

It's not everyday that a theft victim offers to pay the thief to return the stolen property.

But that's just what Jamie Maxwell is proposing to whoever stole two digital cameras — with his engagement photos — out of his car.

Maxwell, 31, returned to Vancouver from a two-week trip to Cambodia with his fiancée, to whom he proposed on the trip, on Sunday.

"When we got home we did our unpacking and just happened to leave a couple things in the car," he said yesterday.

The next morning he noticed it had been broken into. Their souvenirs, gifts for friends and cameras — an Olympus and Canon — were gone, along with the memory cards that recorded their entire trip.

"That's what really hurt," he said, speaking of the photos. "We put up some signs, talked to a few of the homeless guys doing recycling out behind our house." But to no avail.

"It was kind of a welcome back after being in a country where people don't have anything."

He said it was frustrating to have seen so much poverty, felt so much compassion and realized how lucky he is, only to come home and be robbed.

The biggest loss, he said, is the pictures they took after getting engaged on the beach.

"We went and got a bottle of champagne in the restaurant and the waitress took a couple of pictures with our glasses up in the air," he said.

Maxwell said all he wants are the memory cards, which he's willing pay for.

Vancouver police Const. Tim Fanning said theft from vehicles is one of the most prevalent crimes plaguing the city, although it's down three per cent from this time last year. So far this year, he said, city police have received 5,246 theft from car reports.

"We have such a problem with drug addicts that feed their habit by breaking into cars and stealing whatever they can," Fanning said, adding the thieves who broke into Maxwell's car could face jail time of several weeks to several months — if they're ever caught.

Drugs, thefts linked

— Vancouver's property crime problem is directly related to its drug problem, Const. Howard Chow said in 2007.

— He said an addict steals $10,000 worth of goods a day to maintain a $1,000-a-day habit, which accounts, in part, for the 16,000 cars broken into annually in Vancouver.

Too soon to link foot in Sweden to B.C., official says

SHOE It is too early to determine links between a human foot that washed ashore in Southern Sweden and five others found in Southwestern B.C., Swedish authorities said yesterday.

The foot, which was inside a shoe, was spotted bobbing in the surf Monday by lifeguards in the resort town of Halmstad, CBC News Online reports.

DNA samples from the foot will be compared against missing people in the area, said Joakim Sjolander, a policeman.

He added police do not suspect crime and said it was too early to link the foot with the five that have washed ashore in the past year in B.C. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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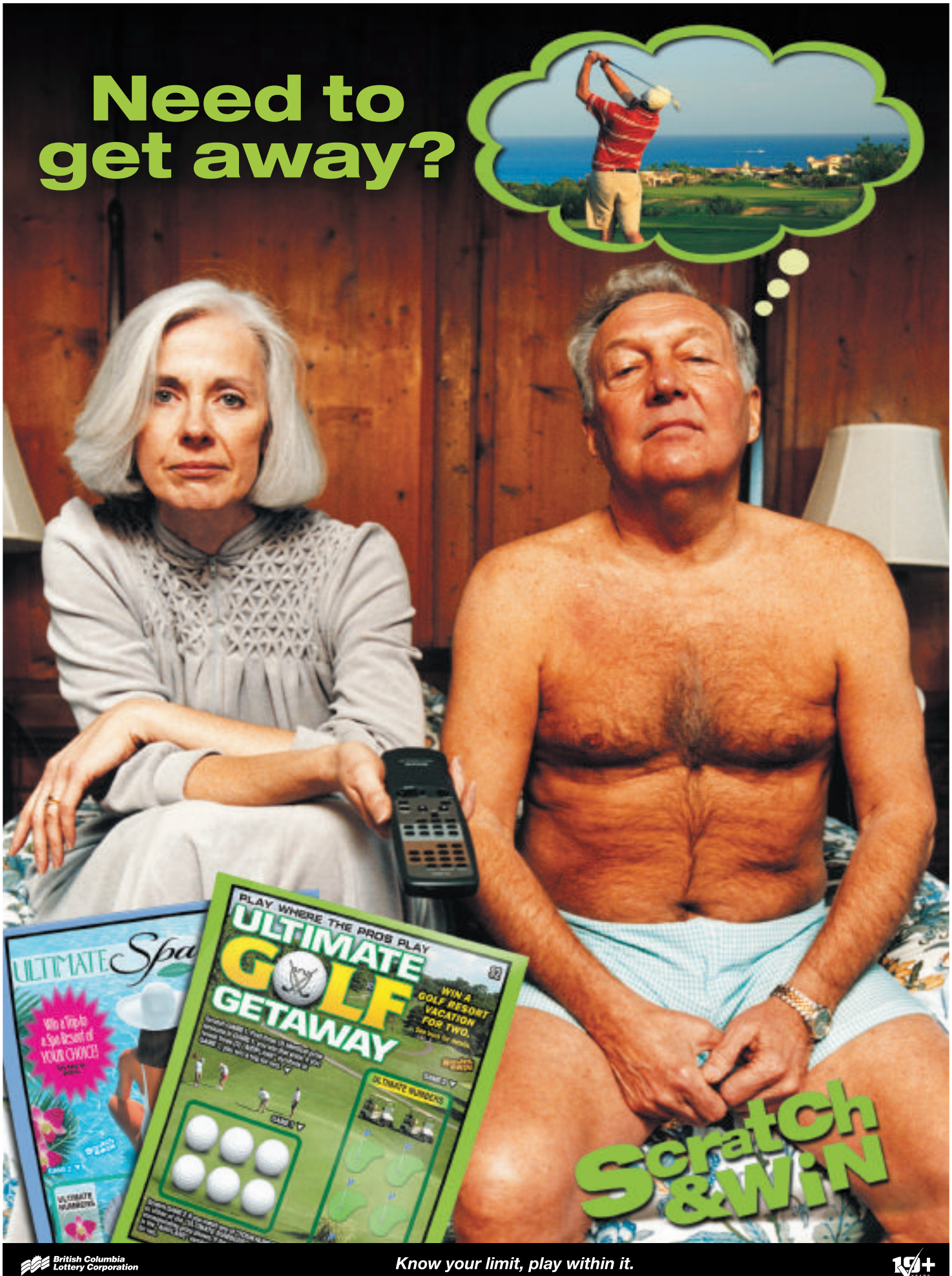
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Honouring Bob Ackles
Following today's practice, B.C. Lions' vice-president George Chayka will unveil plans to honour late president and CEO Bob Ackles. Designs for the Lion's commemorative helmet decal and field logo will be displayed at the Surrey Practice Facility. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Food fight settled?

About 10,000 Save On Foods and Overwaitea employees across B.C. have voted 75 per cent in favor of accepting their company's latest offer. The workers had been without a contract since the end of March and had earlier voted to strike if an agreement couldn't be reached. SOURCE: NEWS1130.COM

Citytv
ROGERS

Paralympic powerhouse

B.C. athletes to make up nearly 1/3 of Canadian team

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Forty-one of the 143 Canadian Paralympians headed to Beijing in September for the 2008 Summer Games call British Columbia their home.

Members of the Canadian Paralympic Committee yesterday announced the entire team, which is competing in 17 sports including judo, swimming, sailing and boccia, at the Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Gardens in Vancouver.

Shauna Whyte, who was a biathlete before she broke her back horse back riding, is competing as a hand cyclist.

"I'm returning to the sport I love," she said, adding that she's "astounded" by the athletic skill of her teammates.

Sarah Hunter, of White Rock, is competing in wheelchair tennis.

She said when she broke her neck 11 years ago while playing hockey, she wasn't aware of all the sports still available to her in a wheelchair.

"I got into the tennis chair and that was it," she said. "I was like, 'Holy cow. I can do anything.' I haven't found anything I haven't been able to do."

Hunter said the Paralympics is a chance to show the able-bodied world that being disabled doesn't restrict you.

She said her motivation and inspiration is her two-year-old daughter, who will travel with her to Beijing.

"What better way to show her that she has no limitations when she looks (up) and sees me?"

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Paralympic hand-cycling competitor, and former biathlete, Shauna Whyte, speaks at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens yesterday.

Questions surround death of B.C. model

SHANGHAI Family and friends of a 22-year-old B.C. model found dead in Shanghai were struggling to understand the circumstances around her death yesterday.

Diana O'Brien, who grew up on Saltspring Island, was recently contacted by a Chinese modeling company called JH Model Agency and signed to a three-month contract; the company's website is no longer available.

"She said it was tough because of the language barrier, trying to find food was difficult, it was smoggy and she wasn't used to it," her boyfriend Joel Berry said yesterday. The couple had been together for five years and had planned to marry.

Despite comments from friends of the young woman who said she had expressed concerns about being sent on assignments that included dancing in front of elderly men to promote alcohol and on shoots that had her posing nearly nude, Berry said she never told him any of that.

He added that he has heard from Shanghai that O'Brien's apartment was ransacked and robbery appears to be the motive.

Diana O'Brien

O'Brien's mother lives in Mexico and her father, Michael O'Brien, in Regina.

Michael O'Brien said that foreign affairs officials have given him some details, which he felt uncomfortable in revealing publicly, but has been given assurances that this was an isolated incident.

A memorial service would likely be held in B.C.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BC is taking action against global warming.

Many parts of BC have been warming at a rate that is twice the global average. It isn't hard to see the impact that climate change has already had on our province: the mountain pine beetle epidemic, the storms that devastated Stanley Park, the floods of 2007, the loss of water supply to over 900,000 people in 2006, the wildfires of 2003 and the depletion of our glaciers.

These effects of global warming have already taken a heavy toll on our economy, our natural resources and people's homes and livelihoods. It's clear that it's hurting our province. It's time for all of us to take action.

- 11 of the last 12 years were among the warmest ever since 1850.
- Over the last century, BC has lost up to 50 per cent of its snow packs, and glaciers have melted away.
- Warm winters have created the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
- 80 per cent of our pine forests will be "red and dead" by 2013.

How you can benefit from BC's carbon tax shift.

On July 1, 2008 a carbon tax on fossil fuel emissions was introduced. What this means to you is 2.34 cents per litre added to your cost of gas. In BC, 36% of all greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. It's estimated that BC's carbon tax will save up to 3 million tonnes of CO^2 emissions annually; this is equal to taking nearly 790,000 cars off the road each year.

With even small adjustments you can reduce your fuel usage. In fact, most drivers can offset their carbon tax with one less fill-up per year.

By law, every penny of the carbon tax must be used to cut other taxes.

In fact, over the next 3 years, over $1.8 billion will be returned to individuals and businesses in reduced taxes.

You choose, you save.

- If you drive only 5% less a year, you can typically save twice what you will pay in carbon tax over the next two years.
- If you drive a Ford Ranger 30,000 Km per year, you can save $535 on fuel by driving 10% less. That's over five times more in savings than the $84 you would otherwise pay this year in carbon tax.
- If you are buying a new car or truck, you can save up to $4,000 this year in sales tax by choosing a fuel-efficient vehicle.
- Trade-in your old vehicle for a cleaner one and you can save up to $2,000 or more under the expanded province-wide "Scrap-it" program.
- Keeping your car or truck tuned up and your tires properly inflated can save you $200 a year in fuel costs.

Income taxes decreased on July 1st.

New tax relief is a key part of the carbon tax shift. On July 1st, 2008 provincial income taxes were reduced. On July 1st, 2009 they will be reduced again. While pollution will cost more, income will be taxed less and take-home pay will grow. Lower income earners will be eligible for an additional tax credit and every woman, man and child in BC will receive a $100 cheque from the Climate Action Dividend.

Businesses will also see their income taxes cut over the next few years to become the lowest in Canada. As well, other new measures will provide new sales tax exemptions, financial incentives and cash rebates to reward "carbon smart" choices. These are all in an effort to conserve energy, reduce waste, increase fuel efficiency and promote cleaner transportation.

- British Columbia has the lowest personal income taxes in Canada at every level up to $111,000.
- New tax cuts will save most families between $100 and $400 this year, net of the carbon tax, even if they do nothing to reduce their emissions.
- A single parent earning $30,000 per year, with one child, will typically save $285 net of their carbon tax this year and will save $196 net next year.
- Since 2001, over 100 tax cuts have been introduced in British Columbia.
- All taxpayers earning over $30,000 a year have had their provincial income taxes reduced by at least 30-37%.
- Low income taxpayers earning under $20,000 a year have had a 75% tax cut since 2001.
- Provincial income taxes were eliminated completely for everyone earning under $15,500 a year; 250,000 more citizens now pay no provincial income taxes at all.

It's time to lead on climate change.

Together, we can meet BC's new legal target to reduce our provincial greenhouse gas emissions by 33% over the next 12 years. It won't be easy and it will oblige us all to change. But, we can achieve that target in ways that will save us energy, time and money, while also improving our air, water quality, and stimulating innovation, investment and job creation.

We can't wait for others to tackle global warming. Waiting for others to act is not a solution, it's just an avoidance of our responsibility. Unless we act today, it will be our children and their families who will pay the biggest price.

The time has come to act – to reduce our own emissions and lighten our carbon footprint. That is what BC's new carbon tax shift is all about.

It's our choice, It's their future

To learn more about how you can benefit from BC's climate action plan, check out LiveSmartBC.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Did you get your cheque?
Yesterday was the last day to receive the $100 climate-action dividend cheques from the B.C. government. People who have yet to receive the carbon tax rebates can call the Canadian Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

WHARF TO GO Jericho Beach's historic wharf will be torn down while English Bay will receive a new bistro that should open summer 2010, CBC News Online reports. The Vancouver Park Board voted to remove most of the wharf with the remaining eastern part repaired and upgraded. Cost of removal is $1.9 million.

FATAL CRASH Three residents from Burns Lake died after a head-on collision, CBC News Online reports. Two 17-year-old males and the 19-year-old female driver crossed the centre line, collided with a pickup truck and died at the scene on Sunday. The pickup driver suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

GIRL FOUND The Amber Alert issued by Vancouver Island RCMP was cancelled last night after the missing 10-year-old girl was found unharmed with her stepfather, cknw.com reports. The pair were found in Victoria after a tip from the public.

NANNY TURNS UP A West Vancouver nanny, who was reported missing, has been found. Police said Trudy Lynn Pitcher and the family for whom she works are treating this as a private matter. Pitcher was reported missing on Monday when she didn't return home from meeting with friends.

REWARD RCMP in Whistler are looking for vandals who destroyed signs and cut down trees in Alpha Park. Residents heard the commotion around 11 p.m. on Thursday night. Police say there's a $2,000 reward for information that leads to an arrest.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

letters

Thank you from a married gay man

Re: "5 years and going strong."

Thank you for honouring the fifth anniversary of same-sex marriage in B.C.

As a married gay man who is celebrating his fifth wedding anniversary, I am proud that I live in a province and country that has no second-class citizens. Our diversity makes us the richest place on the planet!

-JAMES SANYSHYN, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail letters to vancouverletters@metronews.ca. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.

Whitecaps need big win tonight

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

The Vancouver Whitecaps need to win — and win big — tonight to keep alive their hopes of being Canada's team in the inaugural CONCACAF Champions League.

The 'Caps (1-2-0) are still mathematically alive in the three-team tournament, but to go through they need to beat Toronto FC (1-1-0) by at least four goals.

In turn, Toronto has to defeat the Montreal Impact (2-1-0) by three goals in the tournament's final match on July 22.

"I think it's spectacular," Whitecaps keeper Jay Nolly said of the Nutrilite Canadian Championship, a home-and-away round robin between Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto.

Vancouver dropped its first two games to the Impact, but rebounded with a 1-0 victory over the FC in Toronto on on Canada Day. It was Toronto's first loss at home this season.

"Fans are going to see a ramped-up Toronto," Nolly predicted of tonight's game. "There'll definitely be an edge to them."

Head coach Teitur Thordarson said the chance to play in the Champions League has been something the team has looked forward to all year.

"Unfortunately we destroyed it a little bit for ourselves with the two losses against Montreal," he added.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver Whitecaps striker Charles Gbeke heads the ball during practice yesterday at Simon Fraser University.

"Fans are going to see a ramped-up Toronto. There'll definitely be an edge to them.
Jay Nolly, Whitecaps keeper

wear blue!

- Vancouver will be wearing its away blue jerseys during tonight's game and are encouraging their fans to also wear blue.
- The match starts at 7 p.m. Tickets start at $18.

Board votes to lose 70 trees

Stanley Park hollow stays for now

VIEW Seventy trees in Queen Elizabeth Park will be cut down to create a viewpoint while the Stanley Park hollow tree is staying up for at least another five months.

The Vancouver Park Board voted to sacrifice the trees to give park goers a clear view of downtown Vancouver and the North Shore Mountains. Park staff said some of the trees that are scheduled to be removed later in the summer are already sick, and 140 trees will be planted around the park as compensation.

Meanwhile, the hundreds-of-years-old hollow tree in Stanley Park will not be immediately cut down. It will continue to be supported by cables while the board commissions independent engineers to see if it can be saved.

The park board's initial plan was to cut down it and turn it into a memorial.

JOYCE YIP/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Share your thoughts »
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$29M to repair leaky condo

EXPIRED WARRANTY The owners of a leaky downtown Vancouver condo had to pay $29 million to repair it because the 10-year warranty expired four years ago.

Colin Fox told CBC News Online that all of her building's windows, exterior walls and bricks have been replaced. She lives at Governor's Tower at 388 Drake St.

Condo owners paid at least $118,000 each for the repairs according to the size of their units.

A second condominium tower developed by Concord Pacific also had to have $8 million in repairs done because of leaks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

RCMP officer facing surgery after scuffle

FOOT CHASE A Langley RCMP officer is facing surgery after being injured in a scuffle with a motorcycle thief, who was finally caught by an off-duty officer who happened upon the scene.

On Monday night, a Langley RCMP officer chased a man on a stolen motorcycle who rode through a stop sign.

The pursuit turned into a foot chase, and a struggle ensued when the officer caught up with the suspect, who choked the officer and left him with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Cpl. Peter Thiessen said the suspect tried at first to steal the officer's cruiser then tried to carjack three cars that had stopped to assist.

An off-duty RCMP officer from another jurisdiction came upon the scene and pulled the suspect from one of the vehicles. With the help of several bystanders they were able to subdue him until more officers arrived.

The suspect, a 37-year-old Surrey man, is well known to police. METRO VANCOUVER

SFU eases entrance exam requirements

COMPETITION With the size of the campus expanding, Simon Fraser University is easing its entrance requirements to compete for students across the provinces where provincial exams are not written.

Come fall 2009, prospective students will only need a passing mark in one Grade 12 provincial exam, English or its equivalent, along with a high school graduation certificate.

Currently, students are required to pass Grade 12 English and three other Grade 12 exams to apply.

The University of B.C. and University of Victoria have already changed their policies.

DONNA NG/FOR METRO NEWS

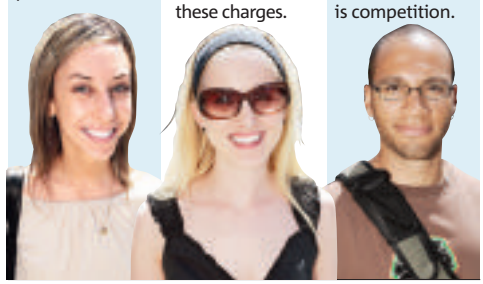
TODAY'S question

Bell and Telus will start charging 15 cents for every incoming text message starting Aug. 8 and 24, respectively. What do you think?

VERONIC TROST
22
Vancouver
student
I'm with Fido. I text a lot, and I would leave either carrier if they implemented it. Before I had a text plan my bills were upwards of $400 per month — and I think I was paying 10 cents per text.

ANGELA MOLINEUX
31
Vancouver
medical industry
That's bollocks. Absolute rubbish. The cellular providers here and in the U.S. are atrocious compared to the U.K. There are no text charges there. Telus and Bell are moving backwards with these charges.

CABRAL ROCK
27
Vancouver
film and television industry
It's more bullshit and no surprise. They charge ridiculous amounts for stuff that should be free. Everywhere else in the world it's free, prices are going down anywhere else there is competition.



RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

CONTACT US:
E-mail your letters to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Boeing building heavy-load blimp
The Chicago-based Boeing Co said yesterday it has teamed with a privately owned Canadian company to build a blimp it says will be able to carry heavy cargo to remote regions like the Alberta oilsands. REUTERS

Canada

Cadman disputes story

The widow of Chuck Cadman, Dona Cadman, left, who told a journalist that the Conservatives offered the dying MP a financial incentive, is disputing parts of the story in a new affidavit. But it remains unclear if Cadman, who is now running as the Conservative candidate, is saying the incident never took place.

Medal returned

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Mark Schlingerman, a director general of the Catholic group Madonna House, holds an Order of Canada medal that was awarded to the group's late founder, Catherine Doherty, outside the front gates of Rideau Hall yesterday.

TRACEY TONG
Metro Canada

Members of a Catholic community yesterday returned an Order of Canada medal its founder received 32 years ago, to protest a high-profile abortionist's receipt of the award.

Representatives from Madonna House in Combermere arrived at Rideau Hall to return Catherine Doherty's 1976 medal in response to Dr. Henry Morgentaler's recent appointment to the order, joining a priest in British Columbia who has also surrendered his award in protest.

"Our purpose was to make a simple public gesture to call attention to the disgrace and disappointment of the awarding of the medal to Dr. Morgentaler," said Susanne Stubbs, a director with the community of more than 200 laymen and priests that assists the poor and struggling.

"The medal has been dishonoured."

Harper limits G8 goals on greenhouse: Official

Prime Minister Stephen Harper worked to ensure that the Group of Eight leaders produced a climate change agreement that did not contain overly ambitious goals for cutting greenhouse gases, a senior Canadian government official says.

G8 leaders meeting in Japan put aside their differences to reach an accord on tackling climate change, but environmental groups blasted the agreement as woefully inadequate to tackle one of the globe's most challenging problems.

Harper lauded the accord as an "important advance" because U.S. President George W. Bush dropped his enduring opposition to specific long-term goals for greenhouse gas cutbacks. The same is true of Russia, he noted. "This is the first time that either of those countries have conceded the necessity of having a long-term mandatory goal for reductions," Harper told the media.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LAYTON Federal New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton says it's "simply outrageous" for Ottawa to sign a trade deal with Colombia with a clause calling for the South American nation to pay a fine to a special fund whenever a union activist is murdered. In Colombia, their national army has been linked to 28 trade unionists murders so far this year.

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8

Hurricane Bertha mellows
Hurricane Bertha weakened to a Category 1 on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said yesterday. REUTERS

World/Business

Missile deal upsets Russia

Promises military response if U.S.-Czech shield deployed

The United States signed a pact yesterday to build part of a U.S. missile defence shield in the Czech Republic, prompting neighbouring Russia to warn it will react with military means if the shield is deployed.

LASZLO BALOGH/REUTERS

Demonstrators walk on Prague's Stefanikuv bridge during a rally against a plan to build a U.S. missile defence shield in the Czech Republic yesterday.

The U.S. and Czech foreign ministers toasted with champagne after signing the accord to place a tracking radar southwest of Prague as part of a system to protect against the perceived threat of missile attack from countries such as Iran.

But Russia, in a statement reminiscent of Cold War rhetoric, warned the United States against deploying the shield close to its borders.

"If the real deployment of an American strategic missile defence shield begins close to our borders, we will be forced to react not with diplomatic methods, but with military-technical methods," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on its www.mid.ru website.

It did not give specifics, but analysts said the threat appeared aimed at stoking European opposition to the shield.

In 2007, former president Vladimir Putin, now prime minister, said Russia could aim missiles at European countries if the U.S. missile shield, which Moscow considers a threat to security, goes ahead.

The Pentagon said the missile defence system Washington wants in the Czech Republic and Poland is to counter threats from the Middle East, not Russia. REUTERS

Buzz announces early retirement

Buzz Hargrove says he will retire early as the president of the Canadian Auto Workers and Ken Lewenza, the fiery leader of the union's big Windsor local, is set to jump into the driver's seat.

"I think everyone works hard for the union, but no one works harder than Kenny."
Buzz Hargrove

Hargrove, who has led the union since 1992, surprised CAW leaders yesterday by revealing he will leave no later than Sept. 15 instead of next year.

Hargrove, the CAW's other senior officers, executive board, directors and staff overwhelmingly endorsed Lewenza, president of Local 444 in Windsor, at meetings yesterday to fill the $150,700-per-year hot seat.

"He has enormous energy," Hargrove told reporters as Lewenza sat beside him.

"I think everyone works hard for the union, but no one works harder than Kenny."

Hargrove assistants Hemi Mitic and Tom Collins, who indicated earlier they would run regardless of the outcome of the endorsements, instead pulled out of the race at the same meetings.

Hargrove, who had planned on retiring next March or August, said campaigning had started for his post and he didn't want the increasing political activity to divide the CAW.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bank backs off as tensions ease

CREDIT CRUNCH Tensions in Canada's money markets have eased enough to prompt the Bank of Canada to suspend operations to get short-term lending back on track.

The central bank said yesterday it would sell back $1 billion worth of securities it bought on the market on June 10 instead of rolling them over. It marks the withdrawal of all of the bank's extraordinary help to once-stressed markets.

REUTERS

Palestinian shoppers defy Israeli orders

RAID Israeli forces raided a popular shopping mall in the occupied West Bank yesterday, ordering its closure for two years over its owner's alleged links to Hamas.

Palestinian shoppers defied the Arabic-language order, left at the complex and signed by an Israeli general, by flocking to the five-storey complex in the centre of the city of Nablus.

"Those in charge of the property must … close it and keep it shut for two years, upon receipt of this order," the document said, threatening violators with a five-year jail term and giving shopowners until Aug. 15 to move.

The Israeli army surrounds Nablus, governed by President Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority, but mounts frequent raids into the city in what the military describes as attempts to prevent attacks by militants. REUTERS

U.S. targets firms with nuclear ties

BUSINESS BANS The U.S. Treasury said yesterday it has designated four Iranian firms for their ties to the country's nuclear and missile programs, a move that bans U.S. companies from dealing with them and freezes any assets they may have under U.S. jurisdiction.

"Iran's nuclear and missile firms hide behind an array of agents that transact business on their behalf," said Stuart Levey, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.

Treasury designated Shahid Sattari Industries, which is involved in the manufacturing and maintenance of ground support equipment for the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group.

Seventh of Tir was named for its ties to Iran's centrifuge development program, and Ammunition and Metallurgy Industries Group was listed for its relationship with Seventh of Tir. REUTERS

Obama denies flip-flopping on Iraq

ELECTION BATTLE Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama rejected charges yesterday that he has shifted positions on Iraq and other issues as part of a move to the political centre now that he is his party's nominee.

As he positions himself for the battle against Republican John McCain, the Illinois senator softened an earlier vow to reopen the North American Free Trade Agreement, did not oppose a Supreme Court decision striking down Washington's gun ban and said he would support expanding the government's wiretap authority.

Most recently, he signaled flexibility on his pledge to quickly pull U.S. troops out of Iraq, telling reporters last week he might "refine" his views based on what happens on the ground. REUTERS

News in brief

DAMAGES A magnitude 6.2 earthquake shook southern Peru yesterday, killing at least one in the Andean country's second-largest city, Arequipa, and damaging scores of homes.

TOLKIEN FIND A demolition man stripping a fireplace from the former home of The Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien stumbled across a postcard to the writer dated 1968, and hopes to sell it for a small fortune. Stephen Malton was working in a house in the town of Poole, England before it was bulldozed. REUTERS

News in brief

REFINERY SHELVED Royal Dutch Shell has cancelled plans to build a new multibillion-dollar refinery near Sarnia, Ont., due to poor market conditions and surging construction costs, the oil major said yesterday.

GAS PRICES U.S. drivers can expect to shell out more than $4 US a gallon for gasoline for the rest of 2008 and prices will keep rising until November, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said. REUTERS

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Harden dealt to Cubs

The Chicago Cubs have acquired pitchers Chad Gaudin and Victoria's Rich Harden from the Oakland Athletics in exchange for four prospects. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Canucks match Blues' offer sheet for Bernier

One week after the Vancouver Canucks signed restricted free agent forward David Backes to an offer sheet, the St. Louis Blues struck back.

The Blues signed Group II free agent forward Steve Bernier to an offer sheet worth $2.5 million US for next season, which the Canucks were quick to match, TSN.ca is reporting. If they didn't, Vancouver would have received St. Louis' second round draft choice in 2009.

"Steve is a highly regarded young offensive player in our League," said Canucks GM Mike Gillis in a statement. "As we have stated with his right-handed shot he will be a great addition to our top six forward group and an asset to our power play."

Bernier, 23, was acquired by Vancouver from Buffalo in a trade last week in exchange for a second round draft choice in 2010 and a third round draft choice in 2009. The 6-2, 225-pound right winger played for San Jose and Buffalo last season, totaling 32 points along with 64 penalty minutes.

• Some good news might finally be on the horizon in Vancouver.

In an interview with Vancouver radio station CKNW, free agent forward Pavol Demitra confirmed that the Canucks are his preferred destination and expects to sign with the team.

"I think there is a good chance," Demitra said. "I am very interested in playing for [the Canucks]."

Demitra was recently in town to visit with former teammate Geoff Courtnall, the two played together in St. Louis, and confirmed that the Canucks fit what he is looking for in a team.

• The Anaheim Ducks signed centre Brendan Morrison to a one-year contract yesterday.

The 32-year-old Morrison scored nine goals and tallied 16 assists in 39 games last season for the Canucks, whom he has been with since March 2000.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canucks forward Steve Bernier

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 6 Minnesota 5
N.Y. Yankees 5 Tampa Bay 0
Detroit 9 Cleveland 2
Toronto 7 Baltimore 6
Texas 3 L.A. Angels 2
Chicago White Sox 8 Kansas City 7
Oakland 2 Seattle 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE
St. Louis 2 Philadelphia 0
N.Y. Mets 7 San Francisco 0
Arizona 2 Washington 0
Houston at Pittsburgh
Milwaukee 7 Colorado 3
Chicago Cubs 7 Cincinnati 3
San Diego 10 Florida 1
Atlanta 9 L.A. Dodgers 3

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Minnesota at Boston, 10:05
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, 10:05
Cleveland at Detroit, 4:05
Baltimore at Toronto, 4:07
L.A. Angels at Texas, 5:05
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, 5:10
Seattle at Oakland, 7:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Florida at San Diego, 12:35
Houston at Pittsburgh, 3:05
St. Louis at Philadelphia, 3:05
San Francisco at N.Y. Mets, 3:10
Arizona at Washington, 3:10
Colorado at Milwaukee, 4:05
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 4:05
Atlanta at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10

CFL

WEEK 3

TOMORROW'S GAMES
Calgary at Montreal, 4
Toronto at Edmonton, 7

FRIDAY'S GAME
B.C. at Winnipeg, 5

SATURDAY'S GAME
Saskatchewan at Hamilton, 1

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS' MEN'S TEAM:

TONIGHT'S GAME
Toronto at VANCOUVER, 7

Stanley used as an ashtray

YorkReport

So the Stanley Cup was used as — brace yourself — an ashtray by party animals on Malibu Beach. No joke.

U.S. musician Kid Rock had a wild July 4 bash in which invited members of the NHL champion Detroit Red Wings left the Cup out on the beach, where "people mistook the trophy for an ashtray," according to the New York Daily News. And before you decide to dismiss the information as nonsense emanating from an unreliable rag, keep in mind that it was the same paper that disclosed the extra-marital habits of Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez and his pending divorce, many of which have been confirmed.

• Strippers, by the way, are coming out of the woodwork now to divulge that they had affairs with A-Rod. Seems the future Hall of Famer has had a thing for skanky chicks — no offence to fans of 49-year-old entertainer Madonna, who's been rumoured as A-Rod's latest lover.

Boston stripper Candice Houlihan told reporters she had a two-night stand with A-Rod in 2004 and that the player's wife, Cindy Rodriguez, "did the right thing" by filing for divorce.

• There's a quiet quarterback controversy in B.C., where members of the 0-2 Lions think Buck Pierce is a better choice than Jarious Jackson, who was ineffective and noticeably nervous against the Saskatchewan Roughriders last week. The Lions are 2.5-point underdogs for their game in Winnipeg Friday night.

For more of the York Report go to www.metronews.ca.

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Time delay scrapped.
China's state television plans to scrap its usual slight delay for live broadcasts during the Olympic Games, allowing the audience to see everything "as it happens," the official Xinhua agency said yesterday. REUTERS

Beijing Games

determined

GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Ronaldinho wants to go to Beijing to win gold for his country.

Ronaldinho vows to play for Brazil

SOCCER After being told by Barcelona that they would refuse to allow forward Ronaldinho to play for Brazil in next month's Olympic Games, the superstar reiterated his desire to go to the games.

"It is my dream to search the gold for Brazil," he said at a press conference Brazilian media sources reported.

The out-of-form 28-year-old, who has been told he is surplus to requirements at the Spanish club, was named in Brazil coach Dunga's squad for Beijing as one of the overage players.

"Ronaldinho has to report for training next Monday." the Primera Liga club said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Preparations a 'gold standard'

CHINA. The International Olympic Committee praised Beijing yesterday for setting a "gold standard for the future" in its preparations for the Games.

China, meanwhile, poured scorn on critics abroad, saying complaints of human-rights abuses were "noise pollution" that could not prevent the success of the Games.

While conceding concerns remained about air pollution and broadcasting issues, chief International Olympic Committee inspector Hein Verbruggen said Beijing "looked ready." REUTERS

Tomorrow's lineup

ALL IN THE FAMILY. "I grew up with the Olympics as part of my life with my grandfather, father and uncles all competing at the Olympics," says Beijing-bound solo flatwater canoeist Mark Oldershaw. Read tomorrow's Metro for more.

29 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Bay preparing for last Olympics

Ruling means softball player from B.C. likely facing final Games

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Canada

Growing up in Trail, B.C., a small nature city with a matching population, there was little for Lauren Bay to do besides play sports.

She played many — basketball, volleyball, track, gymnastics — but it was in the ballpark with her older brother Jason that she found her true calling.

Bay, who originally hoped to be a centre-fielder before discovering her true talent at pitching, grew up to be one of the country's top softball pitchers, representing Canada at the Olympic Games.

Jason grew up to be an outfielder for Major League Baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates. Athleticism is clearly in the family's blood, Bay's grandparents Sylvia and Arthur also played ball, her uncle Gerry Moro was a three-time Olympian in decathlon, and her father David played little league.

Kelly Bay, Lauren's mother, said her daughter always had a knack for the sport, but her accomplishments have been no less amazing.

"We didn't imagine it would take her where she's gotten — I don't think anyone could have imagined that — but we're certainly thankful and grateful that it has," she said.

When Bay was 16, she got a call from the White Rock Renegades.

"They were known as the powerhouse of my generation and that was a pretty big deal to even have a phone call from them," said Bay. Her parents, whom she called "saints," drove her nearly eight hours every weekend while school was in session to get her to home games.

The athletic girl with a competitive nature caught the eye of a handful of universities. Among them was Oklahoma State, which she ended up choosing for its welcoming sense of southern hospitality. At OSU, Bay studied international business and became a standout while playing ball, posting a 26-10 record as a senior in 2003 and striking out 451 to break her single-season record.

In 2002, Bay was part of the Canadian softball team that placed ninth at the World Championships in Saskatoon, and in 2004, was part of the Canadian team that placed fifth at the summer Olympics in Athens.

In August, Bay will again be one of the 15 players to represent our home and native land in softball at the Olympic Games in Beijing, where her parents and husband will be present to cheer her on.

"When that anthem starts and you look around and see everyone wearing red and white, you just swell up with a sense of pride and awe that your daughter is one of the chosen few who gets to represent that country," said Kelly Bay. "How many people can say that?"

However, Sylvia Bay added the trip will be bittersweet for Lauren.

"She's looking forward to it, because this will probably be her last one," she said, referring to the International Olympic Committee's vote to remove softball and baseball from the Games effective 2012. These are the first two sports to be cut since polo was voted out in 1939.

Bay called the cut "heartbreaking" and said that she will work with various organizations to bring it back once the bustle of the Games dies down.

"Growing up of having a goal to play softball in the Olympics ... it's heartbreaking to know that, as of right now, no more softball players will be able to follow their dreams in that aspect."

The IOC will vote again in 2009.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lauren Bay will be a part of the Canadian softball team at the Summer Games in Beijing next month.

Lauren Bay pitches during a softball game between Japan and Canada during the Athens 2004 Summer Olympic Games in this file photo.

SCOTT BARBOUR/GETTY IMAGES

Facts

NAME: Lauren Bay
HOMETOWN: Trail, B.C. Currently lives in Chicago.
AGE: 26
MEASUREMENTS: 5'8", 140 lbs
TEAM: Member of Canada's national softball team since 2002
STATS: Bats right, throws left
TRIVIA: Brother is Jason Bay of the Pittsburgh Pirates

UBC to get botanical walkway
A $1.5-million walkway through the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden will open in August. The wheelchair-accessible walkway zigzags over 300 metres between trees and offers spectacular views from 20 metres above ground. METRO

Workology

Enrolment
A declining value in the U.S. dollar is fuelling an increase in foreign student enrolment, some U.S. education experts speculate.
METRO

Nursing 'crisis' to escalate

Continuing care industry may explode in the next few years as baby boomers retire

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

With an aging population and not enough nurses entering the ranks to take care of them all, private and public health-care providers in Canada alike are bracing for a health-care crisis.

Experts say the numbers of elderly people who need help with the daily acts of living most of us take for granted like getting groceries, making meals and keeping healthy are growing and too few nurses are being brought into the fold, especially among young people.

Kaaren Neufeld, president of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), says the numbers tell a worrying story — while the CNA recently succeeded in graduating more than 9,300 new nurses in a single year for the first time in three decades, Neufeld says the country needs closer to 12,000 new nurses each year.

"There is a shortage of health-care practitioners in this country and working with the frail elderly in this country is something there will continue to be a strong need for," Neufeld said.

As many aging boomers develop increasing nursing needs, Neufeld insists more emphasis on continuing care instead of cures will be needed.

"We have to change the way health care is delivered in this country in order to meet the need of the population we're anticipating," Neufeld said.

Lisa Wiseman, president of private firm Eldercare Home Health Inc., which sends experienced registered nurses directly to elderly clients' own homes, says the lack of nurses is a problem not easily solved in the short term, since field experience is such a key part of successful nursing.

"Even if we graduated all the nurses we needed tomorrow, they still wouldn't have the experience. We're definitely heading into a crisis," Wiseman said.

A big problem has been attracting young female nurses, since traditionally few men choose to enter the field.

Before the women's liberation movement, most women chose to enter either nursing or teaching as professions. Now that women are increasingly being accepted in the working world, Wiseman says it's only natural that many are choosing a wide variety of professions. With the average age of a registered nurse hovering at around 47 years old, it's also obvious that relatively few young women are choosing to become nurses.

Still, with demand high and supply low, enterprising students who feel a calling to care for others like Jenna Hoyt, 28, are putting two and two together pursuing their dream of nursing. Hoyt recently graduated from a University nursing course and says her and her friends were being wooed to nursing positions almost instantly.

"From the moment we started nursing school, hospitals were lined up to recruit new nurses," Hoyt said.

Hoyt herself is heading to Ethiopia to provide nursing care and do humanitarian relief work and says of her friends who graduated, not one is still left looking for work.

"Anyone who wanted a job has a job. I actually feel a bit guilty leaving Canada because I know there's a shortage," she said.

Demand for nurses, who are already needed desperately in Canada, will increase dramatically in the coming years.

"Even if we graduated all the nurses we needed tomorrow, they still wouldn't have the experience. We're definitely heading into a crisis,"
Eldercare Home Health president Lisa Wiseman

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'Great Wall of Kandahar'
The Canadian government struck a deal last week with Kandahar University officials to build a three-kilometre wall surrounding the school campus. Construction of the perimeter, which is dubbed the "Great Wall of Kandahar," will begin within weeks. METRO

Ignorance may lead to paid vacation

WorkplaceLaw

Ignorance may be real. But sometimes it leads to a paid vacation.

Fraught with personal problems, when busy season at work hit, equipment operator Brad Smith had little tolerance left. Despite supportive co-workers and comfortable patterns, a last-minute request to work overtime pushed Smith over the workplace ledge. Deciding that he needed time off work, Smith spoke to his supervisor, seeking assurance that he could leave. The response was swift: Smith was told to do "what you gotta do."

Believing this statement meant that he could simply pack up and leave, Smith left work — without indicating when he would return.

Without knowing where Smith was, and having failed in its various attempts to contact him, Smith's employer, the City of Ramara, considered Smith's absence to be misconduct and fired him. Smith responded by suing for wrongful dismissal.

At trial, Ramara argued that it had taken appropriate steps to reach Smith and that it didn't have a duty to chase down an absent employee. But an Ontario court recently disagreed. Although Smith's hasty departure was irresponsible, Ramara did not have a written policy on vacation scheduling and its efforts to communicate with Smith while he was away were deemed haphazard by the judge. Ramara could have found Smith had it made the appropriate inquires, ruled the court.

Most importantly, the law of dismissal requires a consideration of context. Smith's actions, however foolish, were judged against his unblemished employment history and the personal problems he faced at the time. Had he been a short-term employee, with a history of absenteeism or misconduct, the result in this case might very well have been different.

The lessons for both employers and employees are clear:

- Workplace absenteeism should be judged against whether there is a history of similar problems, whether warnings were given and whether a policy specifically defines what the employee ought to have done.
- If a workplace policy exists, follow it with conviction. Flexibility in how a policy is interpreted may limit its enforcement value.
- Always consider any mitigating factors in determining whether, or what type of, discipline should be imposed. Don't learn of them, for the first time, after an employee has been fired.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focussing on the law of dismissal. He can be reached at dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

Before you walk out on your job, make sure you know your workplace policy on vacations.

Cirque du Soleil hiring technicians

Though invisible to the audience, theatre technicians make all the magic happen in Cirque du Soleil.

The Montreal-based circus held a Red Curtain Recruiting event in Vancouver yesterday and will be conducting interviews for the next two days in search of theatre technicians.

In a team of about 40 per show, theatre technicians are divided into fields of automation, rigging, lighting, sound, carpentry, wardrobe, props, production management and artistic direction.

"Basically they're the people you don't see behind the scenes, and it's good you don't see them because they keep the magic alive," said talent attraction advisor, Fanny Page.

Technicians in Cirque du Soleil may work for a residential show — which is in Tokyo, Macau, Las Vegas, Montreal, Orlando and New York — or world-wide tours, where lodging, food, health benefits and school for children are provided. Often signed to one-to-two year contacts, technicians work six-to-16 hour days that usually begin at 11 a.m.

JOYCE YIP/FOR METRO CANADA

meet and greet

To schedule an interview, send your preferred meeting time and resumé to *talents@cirquedusoleil.com.*

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The passion of an artist

KRISTA MARTIN
for Metro Canada

Kris Krug is a new breed of artist.

At 31 he is a fashion and editorial photographer, businessman, author, web strategist, and a teacher at Vancouver Film School.

A self-proclaimed tech artist, Krug's photos have appeared in Rolling Stone Magazine, National Geographic and Business Week.

Krug is currently in Shanghai, with his web solutions company, Raincity. His future plans involve shooting photographs for the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

Although he has no prior formal training in photography or business, Krug studied art theory and claims that you can't win the lottery if you don't buy tickets.

In fact, he attributes his success simply to going after what he wants in life. He advises others to do the same.

"I'm a big fan of getting in touch with your heroes," he said.

"Don't be afraid to create a dialogue instead of sitting back and waiting for it to happen. When people say it's all about who you know — if you don't know the right people, then go out and get to know them," he advised.

While Internet and writing are vital skills in Krug's profession, he said also makes a point of never eating lunch alone.

"Lunch is a great way to connect to someone. I always meet up with a client or colleague," he said.

When Kris is not shooting music festivals, writing books, teaching classes or working on his web company, he can be seen at conferences, art galleries and fashion shows.

Despite a hectic life, he could never choose between the many facets of the art world he has entered.

"I like to think of it as my own blend of dizzy art," he said.

more online
To learn more about Kris Krug, visit *www.kriskrug.com*

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kris Krug, an instructor at the Vancouver Film School, has found success by taking his career where his passions lie.

What will college or university cost you?

As an important piece of educational advice, an early indicator of a successful university career is making a smooth transition from high school to university. Here are some costs you should keep in mind:

FIRST DAY AND FEES

According to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, tuition in Ontario for a two-term college general program is about $1,900 and fees for general universities are about $4,200, on average.

BOOKS AND STUDENT SUPPLIES

You should expect to spend about $1,000 per year for books and school supplies.

LIVING COSTS

If you decide to go with full accommodation from the school, you can expect to pay anywhere from $4,500 to $6,000.

TRANSPORTATION

Will you live within walking distance of your college or university? If not, expect to add $100 per month to your budget for public transportation. NEWS CANADA

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Avenger flexes muscle

Dodge model brings bad boy attitude to mid-size car segment

B. MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

Leave it to the "grab life by the horns" boys over at Dodge to inject a little "attitude" into the mid-size car segment with its new-for-2008 Avenger five-passenger sedan.

All muscular and aggressive, thanks to styling cues borrowed straight from the brand's full-size Charger model, the 2008 Avenger actually shares its platform and most of its mechanical bits with its corporate cousin, the Chrysler Sebring.

The Avenger's styling and materials look and feel better than the Sebring, though that's no reason for any competitors to consider reworking their own offerings. On the other hand, features-wise, the Avenger is a leader, offering the automaker's MyGIG multimedia audio and entertainment system with available navigation, Chill Zone cooled storage compartment above the glove box, heated and cooled cupholders (except on the base Avenger SE) and an available rear-seat DVD entertainment system.

As with the Sebring, the Avenger offers three trim levels. In the latter's case that means the base Avenger SE starting at $20,495, followed by a mid-range SXT version with a $22,595 sticker price and the range-topping Avenger R/T with a $27,395 entry fee.

In its SE trim the Avenger comes with a 173 horsepower, 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine and four-speed automatic transmission, standard side-curtain airbags, four-speaker AM/FM stereo with CD/MP3 player, tilt and telescopic steering wheel, power locks and mirrors, air conditioning, 60/40-split rear seat and 16-inch wheels and tires.

The SXT with a similar powertrain adds anti-lock brakes, the company's YES Essentials stain resistant seat fabric, a power eight-way driver's seat, six-speaker audio system, fold-flat passenger seatback, Touring suspension and 17-inch alloy wheels.

The New Dodge Challenger is all muscular and aggressive, thanks to styling cues borrowed from the brand's Charger model.

2008 Dodge Avenger SE

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- Available all-wheel-drive
- Chill Zone drink cooler

The R/T is equipped with a 235 hp, 3.5-litre V6 mated to a six-speed automatic. It also gets a sport-tuned suspension and bigger brakes to improve handling and stopping, along with interior upgrades in keeping with its top-of-the-line status. An all-wheel-drive R/T is also available, carrying a $30,895 suggested list price.

The Avenger interior looks nice enough with a two-tone motif, white-face gauges, bright trim and easy-to-operate controls.

The Avenger interior looks nice enough with a two-tone motif, bright trim and easy-to-operate controls.

Finding a comfortable driving position is easy with the tilt and telescoping steering wheel and adjustable driver's seat.

On the road, the four-cylinder engine's performance is perky enough for most needs while the ride quality is smooth on the highway and quiet around town.

Toyota, Nissan reduce prices

Canadian car buyers looking to save some bucks behind the wheel of a new vehicle can take advantage of new, lower prices on several Toyota models.

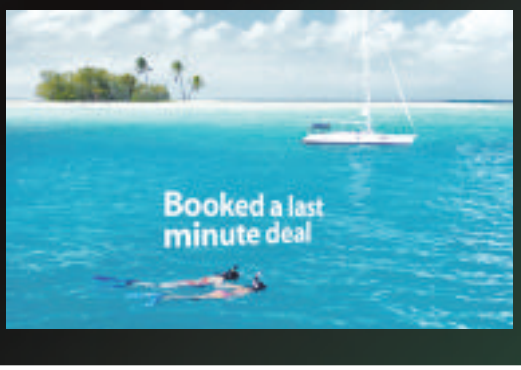
The reductions range from $1,350 to $7,900 depending on the model.

Three 2008-model Toyotas have been reduced: RAV4 buyers save $1,350 on the new manufacturer's suggested list price (MSRP) of $26,050 — down from the previous MSRP of $27,400. The Prius hybrid sedan drops by $1,900 to its new MSRP of $27,600 while the '08 Highlander is now $34,900 for a saving of $2,000.

On a similar note, Nissan has announced the 2009 Armada's pricing will be reduced by $10,000 for a new MSRP of $53,298 while the '09 Titan sees reductions of up to $1,500 on both the Crew Cab and King Cab pickup trucks. Also Infiniti's 2009 FX35 drops $4,350 to $50,700 while there's a $9,900 saving awaiting buyers of the QX56 seven- and eight-passenger SUVs.

New Lexus prices

Eight of the Toyota's upscale Lexus models have also seen price reductions, ranging from $1,400 for the 2008 RX series to $7,900 on the sporty SC



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New car colours in full bloom

Blue is the new black, experts say

An "Atomic Orange" Chevrolet Corvette

Although white, silver and black dominate the global mass auto market, car buyers around the world are leaning toward various treatments of blue, according to leading auto industry designers and a global team of DuPont colour designers.

"This year, we thought it would be interesting to ask car and colour designers in mid year about automobile buyers' colour preferences," said Karen Surcina, colour marketing and technology manager, DuPont Automotive Systems.

For the last 55 years, the DuPont Global Automotive Colour Popularity Report has provided a year-end, data-based snapshot of mass market car colour preferences.

Blue cars such as this Kia Sportage, left, and Saturn Aura, right, are gaining in popularity, although white, seen on the Chrysler 300, remains the most popular colour among consumers.

In Canada and the U.S., blue also plays a role in consumer tastes, says Nancy Lockhart, colour designer for North America. She sees lighter blues emerging with a reddish accent representing a clean, fresh trend. Medium and dark shades of blue are more greenish, evoking a modern feel.

White tri-coats such as pearls are chosen by buyers for their luxurious, yet unpretentious presentation. Oranges and golds are also important and reddish gold is an emerging influence, she said.

"While current economic conditions in North America are not being felt in car colour choices, people are clearly being influenced by the 'green' movement, with natural versions of bold colours taking hold," Lockhart said. "For example, copper seems to be replacing flashier gold finishes and royal blues will give way to lighter, cleaner and more water-like blues. Even white will change, with ultra whites and yellowish whites giving way to cleaner versions."

THE DARK KNIGHT
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"White seems to be the most prominent colour on the road and on everyone's mind in design," said Mollie Engel, senior colour designer for Kia Design Center America.

"It is the new luxury colour and it is also ecological. The lighter the colours we use, the less 'solar gain' is encouraged, and that means less gas we use to cool our cars."

Christopher Webb, General Motors lead colour and trend designer, interior and exterior, says "customers are embracing colour again," with brown, orange and blue selling well.

GM takes consumer input seriously. Several years ago, Webb polled Corvette Car Club members to find out which colour they would most like to see on their vehicles.

Their request for orange came at a time when an "orange trend" was developing in other areas of product design. The result was a colour, developed with DuPont, called "Atomic Orange."

Tips to save gas dollars: Makes cents or non-cents?

With gas prices soaring to above $1.40/litre for regular unleaded in some regions across the nation, tips about how to increase your car's gas mileage and save money on gas are circulating widely.

So here are some fuel economy tips that make "cents" and some that are "non-cents."

MAKES CENTS Drive slowly and steadily. The faster a car accelerates from a stop, the more gas it uses, while driving more slowly overall improves gas mileag.

MAKES CENTS Don't idle. Every second spent with the engine running and the car stationary is a waste of fuel.

MAKES CENTS Keep tires properly inflated. If you do only one thing to improve your gas mileage, checking your tires' air pressure monthly.

NON-CENTS Fill up your gas tank when temperatures are coolest. One theory states that gasoline expands with warmer temperatures, so a litre of gas is actually less than a litre when temperatures are higher.

While this is true, the temperature in a gas station's underground storage tank is fairly constant, typically varying by about one degree, regardless of air temperature.

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Big wheel

While many visitors may be familiar with the views from the London Eye, for a limited time, they will be able to get a similar birds-eye view from the east of the city with the opening of the Greenwich Wheel. The wheel will be up until Sept. 28, and offers spectacular panoramic views. VISIT BRITAIN

Travel

Buck House

Want to see how the royals live? Every year, Buckingham Palace opens its gates to visitors for a glance at the State Rooms. This year, the palace is open from July 29 to September 29. The tour includes a look at opulent collectibles including Faberge eggs, Rembrandt paintings and some of the finest furniture in the world. VISIT BRITAIN

Disney ups the ante

Toy Story Mania! is one of new key attractions

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
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You can play video games at home. Or you can be in the video game at Disney's newest ride, Toy Story Mania! Dubbed a 4-D adventure, the newest addition to Disney's California Adventure in Anaheim takes park goers through a series of virtual midway games led by the film's lead characters, Buzz Lightyear and Woody.

It keeps score, it's addictive and according to John Lasseter, chief creative officer of Pixar and Walt Disney Animation, this ride is exactly what Disney hoped for. "We wanted to create an attraction that was so fun, as soon as it's over you want to get back on again," Lasseter said.

Sitting side-by-side and armed with spring-action shooters you launch virtual projectiles ranging from darts to midway rings at 3-D targets. And yes, it can be tough on the forearms so stretch first.

Everything reacts to you, ballons burst showering you with virtual confetti and when rockets take flight directly at you, a perfectly timed blast of air lets you feel them whirl by. They're so real that several people were seen trying to touch the images. And in each of the games, there is at least one "Easter egg" — a target that can trigger the appearance of bonus, high-value targets and other changes in the scene.

What makes this ride so addictive is the desire to improve your score and — more importantly — to beat the person beside you.

The only thing keeping people from riding Toy Story Mania! repeatedly on opening day was a lineup stretching halfway across Californialand. But that's a testament to people's love affair with the characters from Toy Story.

To soothe the wait, Disney created a giant Mr. Potato Head that acts as a carnival barker. It's able to say several lines of dialogue to people in line as well as remove a body part (his ear) and re-attach it.

According to Lasseter, Toy Story Mania! is the first installment of a $1.1 billion, five-year plan to upgrade Disney's California Adventure, which opened in 2001. He said the next Disney movie to be turned into a ride will be Cars (2006).

GENE DUNCAN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Donning 3-D glasses and manning spring-action shooters, park goers ride the new Toy Story Mania! attraction at Disney's California Adventure in Anaheim, Calif.

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Home of the future is thoroughly interactive

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

In the future, all surfaces of your home will be interactive screens, according to the director of consumer strategies at Microsoft. Speaking at Disneyland's Innovations Dream Home exhibit, Eric Hollreiser added that the future he's talking about isn't far off.

"About 60 to 70 per cent of this technology is already available," Hollreiser said, while standing by a surface-enabled touch-screen coffee table.

Disneyland's 5,000-plus square-foot home of the future, built by Taylor Morrison, is the latest addition to the park's Tomorrowland and brings together technology heavyweights Microsoft, HP and Life/Ware — all paid over $1 million to be there.

Andrea Ison, marketing co-ordinator for Life/Ware, said the home uses radio frequency identification to interact with its residents.

"When a specific family member walks in, it sets up the room the way he or she wants it," Ison said. It adjusts the temperature, turns on music and even changes the digital photo frames to show that person's photos.

In the kitchen, a monitor sits beneath a glass counter top and serves as a cookbook, keeps track of what's in the fridge and is connected to all other screens in the house.

The living room features a 100-inch flat screen TV and a 3-D printer. This latest gadget is like an early version of a Star Trek replicator, for all you nerds out there.

Objects placed inside it are scanned and in about two to six hours the printer creates a plastic copy. It's ideal for replacing a lost chess piece or a broken remote control battery door.

PAUL HIFMEYER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Above, Innovations Dream Home is in Disneyland's Tomorrowland in Anaheim, Calif. Right, the home's kitchen.

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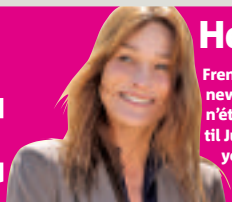
Superbad actor David Krumholtz is set to wed after proposing to actress girlfriend Vanessa Britting in Paris. IMDB.COM

Entertainment



Hear Bruni
French first lady Carla Bruni's new album Comme si de rien n'était won't be released until July 15, but starting today you can listen to it online at carlabruni.com. METRO

Fresh take on exploration

Journey to the Center of the Earth takes thrills underground

JIM REYNO
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Ever wondered what's out there? Or in there? Or even, under there?

Generations of moviegoers have. With Friday's release of Journey to the Center of the Earth, the next generation of movie fans can explore other worlds.

"It already recalls something like Jurassic Park, where there's this notion of an unknown world that is discovered unwittingly," said Charlie Keil, director of the cinema studies institute at the University of Toronto.

"It has the elements of exploration and suspense and surprise because of the various obstacles the explorers are going to find."

Getting a new perspective is a movie tradition. You've probably never seen Trip to the Moon from 1902, but perhaps you've heard the phrase Where No Man Has Gone Before.

The Star Trek series started on the small screen, but went big in 1979. The new take of Journey to the Center of the Earth, starring Brendan Fraser, is a modern spin on an old story. A 1959 version of the film starred Pat Boone. Both are based on the Jules Verne book published in 1864.

Journey To The Center Of The Earth takes a fresh look at the tradition of exploration on the big screen.

But our exploration fascination doesn't have to be on a grand scale.

Who could forget Hamilton's Martin Short cruising around in a li'l ship inside Dennis Quaid in 1987's Innerspace? Or Toronto's Rick Moranis as the flustered father in 1989's Honey, I Shrunk the Kids?

"You could say it's the same formula inverted, in a way," Keil said. "Rather than being exposed to something larger than expected, like a whole new world … cinema can show you things you didn't think were there … things that are suddenly magnified so we experience them differently."

Keil says one of the rules of exploration movies is the effectively melding "spectacle and narrative." He expects moviegoers will keep flocking to theatres to see what surprises are in store.

"Oh definitely. With (Journey), it's being linked to the burgeoning re-exploration of the capacities of new 3D technologies … everyone is saying the new 3D technology is really quite convincing. So this kind of narrative will suit that technology to a T."

movies

Annette Bening

Bening named to Oscar board

PEOPLE Three-time Oscar nominee Annette Bening has been elected to the governing board of the organization that gives out the Academy Awards.

Bening, 50, joins the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which draws up Oscar's rules and regulations.

The actress is a three-time Oscar nominee for her roles in The Grifters, American Beauty and Being Julia. REUTERS

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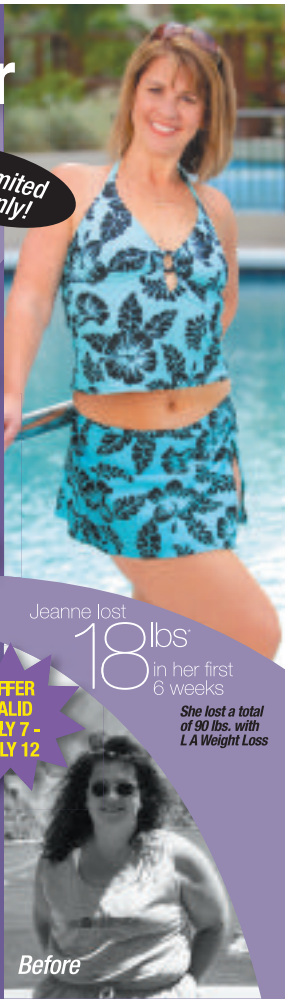

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Television

Josh Holloway, left, best known for his role as Sawyer on the hit ABC series Lost, has joined the cast of the indie comedy feature, Stay Cool. The project is described as a "knowing-your-age comedy," centring on a successful author. REUTERS

Free outdoor movie events

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

To be a movie lover during a Vancouver summer is a conflicting ordeal. There is something unacceptable and even criminal about sitting motionless and indoors, your bottom dissolving into the pores of your sofa as the sun stretches across the sky. For those in this predicament, consider hitting FreshAirCinema, a series of free, outdoor movie events happening across the country. While some details are still to be announced, the next few local shows include July 11 (in Vancouver), July 20 (at David Lam Park in Yaletown) and July 22 (at the Hastings Racecourse). For more info, go to freshaircinema.ca.

Another Screen Actors Guild (SAG) strike is looming ominously, bringing with it the possibility of halting local productions for the second time in a year. The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers has proposed a new offer in response to SAG's concerns over being paid for work appearing on new media, and SAG is slated to respond this week. In the event of another strike, affected local productions would consist of mostly TV shows such as **The L-Word**, **Eureka** and **Kyle XY**.

A disabled woman and her sister were forced from their seats at last week's **George Michael** concert at GM Place because security said her wheelchair was a fire safety hazard. They were moved from their $250 row 14 floor seats on the aisle — which they bought to accommodate the wheelchair — to the very back, where neither could see and both cried, according to the sister.

I dislike writing about **Pamela Anderson** because there is an indisputable mindlessness about expending words on giant breasts and a platinum weave, but during every slow week in Hollywood North, the Ladysmith export comes through in a clutch. A few weeks ago, she had men literally jumping over fences while shopping in Victoria, and then a ho-hum council meeting in Nanaimo turned into a frenzied autograph session when she showed up to seek a permit for her proposed Vancouver Island development. Last weekend, Anderson celebrated her 41st birthday at LAX Nightclub in Las Vegas by rubbing up on douchy illusionist **Criss Angel** and appearing to fellate her birthday cake. (Her actual birthday is on Canada Day, no less.) Bless your heart, Ms. Anderson. You make the world a better place.

GETTY IMAGES

Below: George Michael (left), and Pamela Anderson.

GETTY IMAGES

Nickelback's Chad Kroeger.

Nickelback signs with Live Nation

MUSIC. Alberta rockers Nickelback have become the latest superstar act to sign a long-term deal with Live Nation. The L.A.-based entertainment company says Nickelback's worldwide contract will cover three touring and album cycles, with an option for a fourth. The deal also gives Live Nation rights to Nickelback recordings, DVDs, merchandise and endorsements, but no financial details were revealed. The band's last tour, which visited North America and Australia in 2006-2007, sold more than 1.5 million tickets. REUTERS

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This Jewel is Perfectly Clear

BRIAN TOWIE
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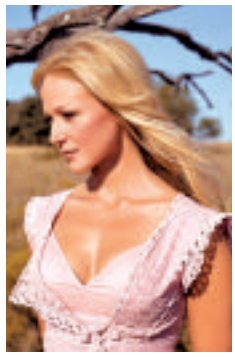
Jewel has gone country — but then she says she always was.

The Grammy Award winner and judge on NBC reality singing contest Nashville Star argues her newest album, Perfectly Clear, isn't so much about a reinvention of her sound as it is a return to her roots. Released last month, the album is full of Loretta Lynn-influenced narratives, swaying acoustic melodies and piano accents — a touch of city slicker sophistication to her largely self-produced down-home sound.

Jewel Kilcher penned much of the record growing up in rural Alaska, playing honky-tonk roadhouses with her dad and living on a ranch with no running water, a coal stove for heat and an outhouse for a toilet.

"I grew up writing this," says Jewel. "This is my life and my history. I didn't wake up and become someone else or get a new sound. I've never felt like I've had to pick a team or something. I've liked what I've always liked, which is storytelling."

The album belies Jewel's past incarnations, and maybe for good reason. Her 2003 album 0304, commercially successful though considered a misstep by critics and purist fans, fused big band with urban dance beats. It was certainly a far cry from 1995's Pieces of You — one of the most successful debuts of all time. Jewel says the album was branded as alt-pop by a music industry riding the crest of the grunge rock tsunami caused by the success of bands such as Nirvana and Soundgarden, and should have been considered a country work if anything.



Jewel's Perfectly Clear is full of swaying acoustic melodies.

Now, at 34, Jewel has mixed memories of her time at the top. As a 19-year-old living in a car in San Diego, she wasn't ready for the ruthless realities of life at the top of the charts. She recalls frequently fighting uphill battles for creative freedom (which might explain 0304).

"I'm not trying to be a martyr or anything, but it is something to go from being homeless to being rich overnight. I was just not prepared for that at all. I don't think anyone would be. I certainly had rock 'n' roll clichés happen," she says. "The good news is that the more you're in control of everything, the safer you are."

Lesson learned — after more than a decade as a major label artist, Jewel says educating herself on the business has led her to a position where she can do what she wants, when she wants, and she warns up-and-comers to do the same.

"It's a complicated business, and it's not set up to help the artist win.

"It's set up for everyone else to make money off of you," she says. "The industry runs artists into the ground. You see these talented kids and they're broke. It's heartbreaking, and it happens over and over."

CBS has revealed the identities of the 13 house guests who will be competing on Big Brother 10, which will premiere this Sunday. "There's somebody for everyone in this cast," Big Brother executive producer Allison Grodner said. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Swingtown tries to hold ground

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
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GOING DOWN SWINGING: ABC's ardent shot at putting quality cable programming in network primetime isn't going over so well with either critics or advertisers. Swingtown debuted just over a month ago in the unenviable summer slot that once meant contractual obligation and sure death for a show before HBO and Showtime began launching shows in the torrid months, and the subject matter — the games of sexual "chicken" adults played with each other in the greasy aftermath of the '60s — was supposed to see the transplanting of risqué cable content to prime time. Monday saw an Advertising Age story about the show getting stiffed by advertisers, who want to capture the attention of younger viewers, but are still afraid of alienating the older ones who — as recent studies have shown — are still network television's biggest viewer demographic.

"It is a shame," a media buyer told the magazine. "When the networks try to push the envelope a little and try to be more like HBO, the advertisers run away."

The closest thing to a rave that the show's gotten so far is Matthew Gilbert in the Boston Globe, who says that after four episodes, it's "almost really good, or, said differently, good enough to reveal how really good it could be." Peter Ames Carlin is a little less lukewarm in his Idiot Box column in the Portland Oregonian (great name for a TV column by the way.)

Carlin calls the show a "disaster," while admitting that, as a child of the '70s, he really wanted it to work. He complains about the music first of all, and he's right — given a choice between something really interesting and the most obvious Top 40 shorthand for the era, the show goes for the latter. Even when they shoehorn a Dylan song into the story, it's the painfully obvious — and 12-year-old — It Ain't Me, Babe.

Bruce and Susan Miller (Jack Davenport and Molly Parker) in a scene from Swingtown.

By 1976, there were 17 Dylan albums that could have been mined for a song, including the painfully apt Blood on the Tracks, which was only a year old at the time. Ditto for You Can't Always Get What You Want by the Rolling Stones — overused a long time ago as a quick, anthemic fix of adrenaline for too many soundtracks.

But the big problem is the characterization. Carlin points out the swinging Tom and Trina barely register as real people — Grant Show's Tom is really just a delivery system for his moustache. Bruce and Susan, the emotional core of the show, in theory, don't sell their sudden urge to spice up their marriage with a bit of spouse-swapping with any real success, mostly because they don't really seem all that into Tom or Trina, and as Susan's nagging nemesis, Miriam Shor's Janet is all shrew, all the time. Sensing that her prim disapproval was wearing, they got her wasted on pot brownies in episode four and practically remade the character between commercial breaks.

Finally, Carlin is right that the kids are the most interesting characters, probably because the people who created it were kids in the first year of the Carter presidency, when the adults were acting like kids and the kids felt positively middle-aged with prescient anxiety, but that might be too little, too late.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Entertainment in brief

POLITICS Howard Wolfson, one of Hillary Clinton's senior campaign advisers, will join Fox News Channel as a contributor. Wolfson is to make his first appearance on air today. Wolfson is one of many political figures the channel has hired recenlty for its election programming. **REUTERS**

Going Out

7:30 p.m. TheatreSports. At New Revue Stage, 1601 Johnston St. Tix: $10.50-14.50. Info: *vtsl.com*.

8 p.m. Twelfth Night. At Bard on the Beach, 301-601 Cambie St. Tix: $33. Info: *bardonthebeach.org*.

8 p.m. Indie band My Dearest Friends, Prairie Dance Club, Matthew Mei performs live. At the Media Club, 695 Cambie St. Tix: $10. Info: themediaclub.ca.

9:30 p.m. DJs Pluskratch, Kemo, Seko Tropic, Relik, Nyce and Adlib play hip hop, rap and soul. Tix: $9. Info: fabricvancouver.com.

10 p.m. DJs Peter Allgood and Reign spin hip hop and house. At Tunnel Multi-Lounge Nightclub, 622 W. Pender St. Tix: $10. Info: entertunnel.com.

	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 7/9/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque	Sophie	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		Stampede
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	Zoe Busiek: Wild Card		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Celebrity Circus (N) (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Canadian Idol	So You Think You Can Dance The top 12. (N) (CC)				CSI: NY "You Only Die Once"		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	According-Jim	George Lopez	Coach (CC)	Growing Pains	Darling Buds of May		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Office	Name Is Earl	NCIS "Friends and Lovers"		ReGenesis (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)		Supernanny "Banjany Family"		Law & Order "Good Faith"		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Make Me a Supermodel		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Entourage	Entourage	Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Price Is Right Spectacular		Criminal Minds "Revelations"		CSI: NY "You Only Die Once"		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Baby Borrowers (CC)		The Baby Borrowers (N)		Celebrity Circus (N) (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Shopping	Style by Jury	Smart Cookies	Stuck (N)	Coleen's Real Women		Stuck
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (CC)		Supernanny "Banjany Family"		Primetime: Crime (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Behind Enemy Lines ★★ (1997, Action) Thomas Ian Griffith.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Field Guide	Click & Clack's-Wrench Turns		Nova scienceNOW (N)		Carrier "Super Secrets" (CC)		Cousteau-Adv.
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance The top 12. (N) (CC)				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	28 PBS	Barenaked Ladies: Talk		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Click & Clack's-Wrench Turns	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	38 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	57 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Big Love (CC)		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	29 NW	Please Vote for Me (2007)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Please Vote for Me (2007)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Oakland Athletics. From McAfee Coliseum in Oakland, Calif.						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	Boxing Wednesday Night Fights. (Same-day Tape) (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Cycling		Word Travels	Globe Guides	Cycling Tour de France Stage 5. From Cholet to Chateauroux, France.				
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Update		Schwab	World Series of Poker		Score Update	Score Update		Score Update
	417	406	55 SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pinks Out	Pass Time
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol: Vancouver Whitecaps vs. Toronto FC				American Soccer		Pagado	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach "Starting Over"		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Hellboy: Blood and Iron (2007, Fantasy) (CC)		
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Crazy Quilt	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Lemur Street	Undersea	Ancient Clues		Raising the USS Monitor (N)		For King and Empire (CC)		Don Giovanni
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Totally "2002"		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	America's Best Dance Crew			Totally Untrue	Punk'd (CC)	America's Best Dance Crew			Spotlight
	600	564	26 H&G	Flipping Out		Holmes	Holmes	Property Shop	City	Property	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	615	520	31 A&E	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	The First 48 (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) UFC Fight Night		MANswers	Factory	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	The Singing Office (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	The Singing Office (CC)		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39 SHO	ReGenesis "The Secret War"		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love "Eclipse" (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order "Savior" (CC)		Without a Trace "4.0" (CC)		Breast Men ★★ (1997) David Schwimmer.		
	601	562	41 SLC	Inside Hollywood		X-Weighted (CC)		Work Out (CC)		Inside Hollywood		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Fatal Flaw" (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Dirty Jobs Hydroseeding.		Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Caught on Tape"		Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Mob Stories (CC)		NCIS "Caught on Tape"		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural "Fresh Blood"		Stargate SG-1 "Homecoming"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason ★★		
	619	525	48 TROP	TV Made	TV Made	ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	52 FN	The Next Food Network Star		Challenge (N) (CC)		Iron Chef America Cat Cora.		The Next Food Network Star		Challenge
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	Tom Green	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) A Teacher's Crime (CC)		Illegal Tender ★★ (2007) Rick Gonzalez.			(:45) The Kingdom ★★ (2007) Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper.			
	581	566	101 MTV	The Real World (CC)		MTV Live (CC)		The Real World (CC)		The Real World (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Captive: The Story of Esther		Side Effects "Pillow Talk"		Jeeves and Wooster		Chambers	No Place Like	Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics'corner

Supernatural

Who knew vampires had their own version of a date-rape drug? Sam and Dean (Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles) meet a female vampire (Mercedes McNab, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer") who has no idea how she got that way. Turns out there's a vampire dude (Matthew Humphreys) who's hitting the bars and giving women blood cocktails. He also works his magic on Gordon. 7 PM on SPC

Click & Clack's as the Wrench Turns

If ever there was a real-life duo suited for cartoonization, it's Tom and Ray Magliozzi, aka the Tappet brothers of public radio's "Car Talk." This new sitcom chronicles the adventures of animated incarnations of Click and Clack as they interact with customers, dabble in politics and look for ways to avoid as much work as possible. In the first episode, the brothers run for president and outsource their radio show to India. 5 PM on PBS

Jada Pinkett Smith has called in Hollywood's Dog Whisperer Cesar Millan to train her pets to avoid rattlesnakes. The actress was devastated when her beloved pooch Rocco died after a rattlesnake attack, and she now feels compelled to make sure her other dogs stay away from danger. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

McConaughey first-time father

FATHERHOOD Hollywood star Matthew McConaughey and his girlfriend are "elated" after the birth of their first child, a baby boy, *imdb.com* reports.

Brazilian model Camila Alves gave birth to a seven pound, four ounce son at 6:22 p.m. in Los Angeles on Monday night, the actor's representative Alan Nierob confirms to *People.com*.

In a statement to Ok! magazine, McConaughey says, "Camila and I were side by side the entire time.

"We are both tired and elated, and are so happy to have created the greatest miracle in the world — having a child and making a family. Now comes the greatest adventure — raising one, together."

The Wedding Planner star announced the news he and Alves were expecting on his official website in January.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Barrymore, Long break up

RELATIONSHIPS Hollywood couple Drew Barrymore and Justin Long have split less than four months after the actress cooed about her lover on TV talk show Oprah, *imdb.com* reports.

Back in March, the Charlie's Angels star told TV host Oprah Winfrey she was mad about Long.

She said her romance with the Dodgeball actor was "healthy, productive, supportive and full of humour."

A spokesman for Barrymore tells America's Star magazine, "I can confirm the split but have no other comment."

The couple started dating in August after meeting on the set of upcoming movie He's Just Not That Into You. METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Lohan given ring from Samantha

GIFT Lindsay Lohan has been given a $22,000 "commitment" ring by girlfriend Samantha Ronson, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports. The actress was taken shopping by the DJ last week to celebrate her 22nd birthday and was thrilled when Sam splashed out on the stunning piece of jewellery.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Prince building house in Africa

CHARITY Prince Harry is once again raising a hand to help the AIDS-stricken African nation of Lesotho, this time building a special-needs school with his army buddies from the Household Cavalry's Blues and Royals regiment, *people.com* reports. Harry, 23, says he hopes the facility in the northern town of Butha Buthe will be the first of many that can be provided by his Sentebale charitable foundation, reports Britain's Telegraph.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Allen and Simons together again

ROMANCE Lily Allen is dating Chemical Brothers star Ed Simons again, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

The singer, 23, is believed to have reconciled with the 38-year-old after revealing she is no longer single on Facebook social networking website Monday.

Both Lily and Ed — who ended their three-month relationship earlier this year shortly after Lily suffered a miscarriage — altered the status on their personal profiles to "in a relationship." The couple were then swamped with messages of congratulations from friends. The reunited couple have been spotted together on numerous occasions in recent weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie wants natural birth: Doc

CHILDBIRTH The pregnant Angelina Jolie is holding steady — and enjoying reruns of Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman. Dr. Michel Sussmann told *starmagazine.com* that Angelina hopes that babies will be born naturally — not via C-section.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ashlee freaked about pounds

BODY IMAGE Four-months-pregnant Ashlee Simpson-Wentz has become Little Miss Obsessive about her new baby body, *starmagazine.com* reports. The pop singer is so surprised she's gained so much so fast — 20 pounds already — that she's working out six days a week with Mike Alexander, sister Jessica's ex trainer. She's doing low-impact exercises, such as riding the stationary bike and Pilates. METRO NEWS SERVICES

* Some conditions apply.

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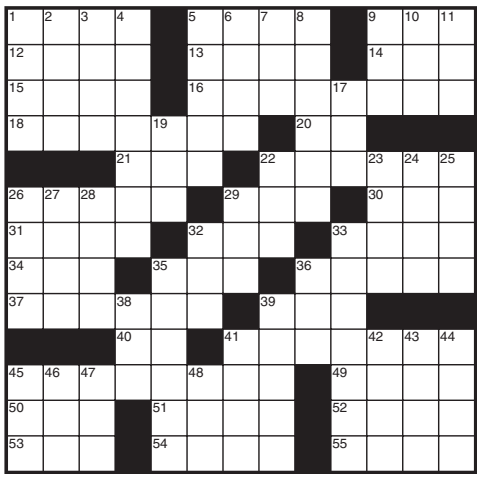
PCTIA ACCREDITED

Former Village People lead singer Victor Willis is recovering in hospital following vocal cord surgery. Willis, the band's original policeman, had surgery at a San Diego, California, hospital on Monday to remove nodules from his vocal cords. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Big handbag
5 "Slither" actor
9 Experiment room
12 Friendly
13 Trevi Fountain coins
14 Ogle
15 Flapjack chain
16 Acting as host
18 Rainspouts
20 Author — Lawrence
21 Variety
22 Medieval clown
26 Floats downriver
29 Passing fashion
30 Whiskey grain
31 Yard sale caution (2 wds.)
32 Evergreen
33 Aloe —
34 Was in front
35 Church seat
36 Fiddled idly
37 Fish baskets
39 Zip
40 Maiden loved by Zeus
41 Clustered
45 Deep space event
49 Candy-striper
50 Rover's greeting
51 Fencing sword
52 Fritz's refusal
53 Authorize
54 — ex machina
55 Inspired poetry

Crossword down

1 Stick
2 Molokai neighbor
3 Quick pace
4 Pours out
5 Store employee
6 Prepares to fire
7 Eyebrow shape
8 Lacked
9 Flower garland
10 Rand of "Atlas Shrugged"
11 Panhandle
17 Codgers' queries
19 PGA's Ernie —
22 Gossip
23 Low card
24 Rochester's Jane
25 — my lips!
26 Greenish mineral
27 Computer owner
28 Wait awhile
29 Not many
32 Of course!
33 Cascade Range peak
35 Made furrows
36 Sardines holder
38 Frankfurt single
39 Heats in the microwave
41 Gourmet cheese
42 Got a move on
43 McClurg or Brickell
44 Lairs
45 Bad, for Yves
46 Natural resource
47 Many times
48 Gorilla or chimp

950,000
Metro readers do it daily!
metro
Do it daily.
SOURCE: NADbank 2007, read yesterday; BASE: Montreal CMA, Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, Toronto CMA, Vancouver CMA

previous day's answer

H	I	D	■	W	I	N	C	H	■	E	O	N
A	L	I	■	E	L	E	N	A	■	A	K	A
G	E	E	■	A	L	A	N	■	K	U	S	H
■	■	■	M	A	K	E	R	■	F	L	■	■
A	L	■	K	E	G	■	B	L	U	R	B	S
D	Y	E	■	R	A	D	I	A	T	I	O	N
A	C	R	E	■	L	I	L	■	Z	O	N	E
G	R	A	V	E	L	P	I	T	■	T	E	A
E	A	S	I	L	Y	■	N	E	B	■	D	D
■	■	■	C	Y	■	O	G	R	E	S	■	■
A	U	N	T	■	T	R	U	E	■	A	L	E
M	M	I	■	V	E	G	A	S	■	V	E	T
Y	A	P	■	T	E	S	L	A	■	E	O	E

This day in history

JULY 9, 1948: Pakistan issued first set of Postage stamp, having image of Constituent Assembly, Jinnah International Airport (Quaid-e-Azam International Airport), and Shahi Fort.

JULY 9, 1986: The New Zealand Parliament passes the Homosexual Law Reform Act making homosexuality legal in New Zealand.

JULY 9, 1991: South Africa is reintroduced into the Olympic movement after 30 years of exclusion.

JULY 9, 2002: The African Union was established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Unfinished business must be cleared up. A man will make hesitant moves. Answer an interrogator with frankness.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't do anything just to continue a relationship. Someone will annoy everyone. A bad job is closer to completion.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Fulfill all your tasks but don't wear yourself out. Peace of mind is hard to find. Unexpected news makes the rounds.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A love affair will ripen. A rushed guy will get nasty. You're better off to take responsibility and admit to any mistakes.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Wait two days before reaching out for love. Contact will be made with a shady character. Prepare to pick up where you left off.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Use cunning to find a way around obstructions. A sweetheart will give an ultimatum. A dependency might break a bad connection.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A celestial alliance occurs in a romance. A jolly visitor brings good luck. Your self-denial won't alter a concept of reality.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
There'll be a spat with a petty person. A brief financial problem must be withstood. A child interferes with your playing.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
A friend needs help when challenging ethical codes. You'll empathize with a comical gnome. Anticipate a celebration.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Risk being honest about your flaws. A digression will only distract an adversary temporarily. Contacting a loser will help with a job.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Good news about a rapid recovery will come. Prepare for a blip in your routine. You won't be held back by an astonishing request.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Mistakes are made but don't take it to heart. Steer clear of a menacing manager. Your truthfulness is keeping you out of the loop.

			2				4	5
	6		7				8	
		3			6	1		
9				5	7			
	1	6				9	7	
			1	8				4
		9	8			7		
	2				4		1	
6	8				3			

Sudoku

INSTRUCTIONS:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

8	9	6	5	1	7	2	4	3
2	4	3	8	6	9	7	1	5
1	7	5	4	3	2	6	8	9
5	6	1	7	2	4	9	3	8
4	3	2	9	8	1	5	7	6
9	8	7	6	5	3	1	2	4
3	1	9	2	4	6	8	5	7
7	5	4	1	9	8	3	6	2
6	2	8	3	7	5	4	9	1

SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:
Under 13 . . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21 . . . . . Smart
21-25 . . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practicing

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny. 22°	Clear. Low 13°	Sunny. 19°/ 12°	Sunny. 19°/ 12°	Sunny. 19°/ 12°

Temperature
Normals
High: 21.7°
Low: 12.6°

Records
High: 28.8°/1985
Low: 9.4°/1939

Sunrise: 5:18 a.m.
Sunset: 9:17 p.m.
Moon does not set
Moonrise: 1:32 p.m.

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617 West Pender Street
110B-123 Carrie Cates Court, North Vancouver
JC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
1238 Robson Street
KINGSWAY MOBILE
1463 Kingsway Avenue
ORANGEWAVE WIRELESS
Arbutus Village
8269 Granville Street
6596 Victoria Drive
PEPPER WIRELESS
First Avenue Market, Unit 102
3189 Main Street
735 Gore Avenue
UNIPAGE
Royal Centre
3565 Kingsway
88 West Pender Street

ABBOTSFORD
SKYNET
Meadow Fair Plaza
WIRELESS WORLD
32330 South Fraser Way, Unit 4

BURNABY
CELLULAR BABY
Lougheed Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Metrotown Centre
ICOREA COMMUNICATIONS
Hannam Supermarket, 4501 North Road #106
ORANGEWAVE WIRELESS
Madison Centre Mall
PEPPER WIRELESS
Crystal Mall
UNIPAGE
Crystal Mall
Metrotown Centre

COQUITLAM
UNIPAGE
Henderson Mall

DELTA
WIRELESS WORLD
Scottsdale Mall

LANGLEY
ORANGEWAVE
20226 Fraser Highway, Unit 122

MAPLE RIDGE
SKYNET
Haney Place Mall

NEW WESTMINSTER
PEPPER WIRELESS
Royal City Centre

PORT COQUITLAM
SKYNET
2564 Shaughnessy Street, Unit 104
101A – 2748 Lougheed Highway

RICHMOND
CELLULAR BABY
Richmond Centre
CELLUNET
4020 No 5 Road
PEPPER WIRELESS
Yaohan Centre
Lansdowne Centre
Aberdeen Centre
Richmond Public Market
UNIPAGE
Aberdeen Centre
Lansdowne Centre
Parker Place

SURREY
ICOREA COMMUNICATIONS
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3-13634 – 104th Avenue
NONI WIRELESS PLUS
Peninsula Village
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Real Canadian Superstore, 7550 King George Hwy
107 - 15551 Fraser Highway
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